IMPORT/EXPORT

PROGRAM PROFILE

Goal

To prevent the introduction of animal disease by imported animals or animal products. Ensure that animals offered by the U.S. for export meet the criteria of the importing country.

Enabling Legislation

21 USC 134; PL 87-518 (Act to Provide Protection Against Livestock and Poultry Disease). Sect. 2509 of the 1990 Farm Bill, as amended by the 1991 Budget Reconciliation Act to authorize user fees.

Economic Significance

The United States is free of many foreign animal diseases that could cost billions of dollars if they entered the country. The value of U.S. exports of animals and animal products exceeds $6 billion annually.

Principal Approach and Methods Used to Achieve Goals

This is a regulatory program that consists of inspection, testing, and quarantine. Quarantine stations are located in Newburgh, New York; Miami, Florida; and Fleming Key, Florida. The Agency also operates or regulates pet bird quarantine facilities. The program assures that all imported animals are free of infectious diseases and that all inspections of livestock, live poultry, and hatching eggs exported from the United States and certifications of freedom from contagious diseases comply with USDA health agreements with importing countries.

History

Program began in 1923 to prevent foreign animal disease introduction. In FY 1992, user fees were implemented for animals and birds quarantined in APHIS animal import centers, use of buildings at these centers, export health certificates, inspection and supervision services provided within the United States for export birds and animals, and inspection services outside the United States. Since FY l992, user fees have financed testing and certification of exported live animals. As of January 21, 1994, user fees are in place for almost all import-export services. These new regulations cover the costs associated with providing supervision and inspection of animals presented for importation into the United States at all entry ports. These new regulations also cover embryos and semen, import

animal products and byproducts, and a few more AIC user fees. In June 1997, APHIS closed the animal import center located in Honolulu, Hawaii.

State and Local Cooperation

Because import-export involves international movement, the responsibilities are delegated to a Federal level, not a State or local level. However, USDA solicits input from States and affected industries in administering the requirements of the law and regulations which affect the importation and exportation of animals and animal products.

Involvement of Other Agencies

U.S. Customs Service--surveillance work at air and sea ports.

RESOURCE DATA

-----------------------Obligations-----------------------

	Direct	User Fees	Trust Funds	Staff-Years (including U.F's)
FY 1996	7,861,145	10,304,415	1,157,512	165
FY 1997	7,427,149	12,325,193	1,167,993	215
FY 1998	6,632,583	13,935,000	1,200,000	232
FY 1999 (est.)	6,815,000	13,174,000	1,200,000	233
FY 2000 (est.)	7,166,000	13,174,000	1,200,000	236

	APHIS	Coop	Total	CCC	Contingency Fund
Cum.	$202,248,242	--	$202,248,242	--	--

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Regulatory Oversight

APHIS regulates the importation of animals and animal products and promotes markets abroad by ensuring that U.S. origin animals and animal products meet health and welfare requirements of recipient countries. Fulfilling this mission in FY 1998 required the regulatory oversight for the importation of 5.9 million animals; 11.8 million poultry including day old chicks; 9.3 million poultry hatching eggs; 69 thousand doses of semen; and 2 thousand embryos. The program issued point of origin certificates for the export of approximately 772 thousand head of livestock, 215 thousand head of other animals including cervids, camelids,

etc., 88 million live poultry, 82 million hatching eggs, and 7.7 million doses of semen.

Regionalization

In compliance with international trade agreements, APHIS continues to revise regulations to incorporate regionalization and risk assessment into the import/export decision-making process. In October 1997, APHIS published a final rule on regionalization which lays out a framework for allowing the importation of animals and animal products into the United States from foreign regions, rather than only countries. It also establishes procedures by which regions may request permission to export animals and animal products to the United States under specified conditions, based on the region's disease status. Prior to the publication of this final rule, APHIS published several smaller related rules including one allowing for the importation of fresh, chilled, and frozen beef from Argentina (under certain conditions) and another allowing for the importation of fresh, chilled, and frozen pork from the State of Sonora, Mexico. Both of these smaller related rules were just part of the larger regionalization rule.

HSTAIC

Two animal importations were conducted at the Harry S Import Center Truman Animal Import Center (HSTAIC) in FY 1998. The first importation consisted of 474 camelids from Peru. The shipment was released in February 1998. The second importation consisted of 420 camelids from Bolivia. This shipment was released in September 1998. We anticipate another shipment of camelids from Peru before the end of December 1998. Due to a lack of demand and long standing deficits, HSTAIC will be closing in October 1999.

Avian Imports

In FY 1998, 11.8 million poultry including day-old chicks and 9.3 million hatching eggs were imported into the United States. Approximately 113,646 commercial birds were released from quarantine in FY 1998. The import of commercial birds are limited to those that are exempt from the Wild Bird Conservation Act. None of the shipments were found to be infected with exotic Newcastle disease, avian influenza, or <u>Salmonella</u> <u>enteritidis</u>, phage type 4.

During FY 1998, 669 smuggled and/or illegally imported birds were confiscated or seized at U.S. borders. These

birds were quarantined at USDA quarantine facilities. The Exotic Newcastle virus was isolated from one lot of yellow cheeked Amazon parrots held at the Mission, Texas smuggled bird facility. The birds were destroyed. No poultry or other birds were exposed to the infected parrots.

Health Protocols for Animal Export

During FY 1998, APHIS negotiated new or revised health conditions for exporting poultry, livestock, and germplasm to various countries. Less restrictive protocols were established for exporting livestock, poultry, and germplasm to Colombia and Peru. Many countries instituted Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) testing requirements as a response to the identification of a CEM-like organism in donkey jacks in the Western United States.

Mexico changed some of their import requirements. Effective in September 1998, all breeding sheep must originate from flocks that are enrolled in the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program. This requirement does not apply to slaughter sheep or ovine semen. Also, for exports to Mexico of day-old chicks and hatching eggs, the flock of origin must be tested for avian influenza.

In late October 1997, Canada published a regulatory change which allowed the import of restricted feeder cattle. These cattle could be exported with no tests to restricted feedlots in Canada. These regulations were recently amended again in August 1998, as requested by the Canadian Cattleman's Association. This amendment was to relieve some of the controls on the restricted feedlots in Canada. This action was beneficial to U.S. feeder cattle producers, providing another market for their product.

Recognition of Disease-Free Countries

In FY 1998, APHIS recognized Canada free of bovine brucellosis and removed the brucellosis test requirements for Canadian breeding cattle. We now accept a certification statement that the cattle originate from a province that is free of bovine tuberculosis. APHIS also recognizes the success of the Canadian bovine tuberculosis eradication program by removing the TB test requirement for cattle entering the United States from Canada. We now accept a certification statement the cattle originates from herds recognized free of bovine tuberculosis.

In FY 1998, APHIS recognized Great Britain to be free of Exotic Newcastle Disease (END). Belgium and Luxembourg were recognized as having bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). In addition, the following countries were deemed to pose an undue risk of introducing BSE into the country: Albania, Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.

Animal Products

APHIS continued to implement alternative methods for importing low risk agricultural materials. These include non-livestock species not susceptible to epizootic livestock and poultry disease and recombinantly (altered) engineered laboratory organisms produced without involvement of animal products or disease agents derivatives.

In FY 1998, a total of 6,537 import applications were processed by the National Center for Import-Export (NCIE). Of the 6,537 applications, NCIE issued permits for 3,997. These permits authorize the importation of organisms, vectors, biological materials, and animal products and by-products. These efforts help to minimize the risk of exotic disease entry into the United States.

APHIS export certification activities for animal products continued to increase this year. Many of the European Union's directives on animal products imported from third world countries were implemented this year. In addition, certification conditions for pet food are being negotiated with South Africa, Russia, Israel, Poland, and other countries. Animal health certification conditions for pork and poultry meat exports are being negotiated with several countries including Argentina and Australia. These efforts will help expand markets for U.S. producers.